

Group I, claims 1-23, directed to a coated substrate; and  
Group II, claims 24-41, drawn to a method of making a  
coated substrate.

Applicants herein elect with traverse **Group I, claims 1-23**,  
for further prosecution at this time. In addition, Applicants  
reserve the right to file divisional applications on the non-  
elected claims pursuant to 35 USC §121 and claiming priority to  
this application under 35 USC §120.

Claim amendments

Applicants herein amend claims 9 and 20 to recite manganese  
in the group of elements that comprise the barrier layer of the  
invention. Marked up copies of claims 9 and 20 showing the  
above amendments are presented in Appendix I attached herewith.

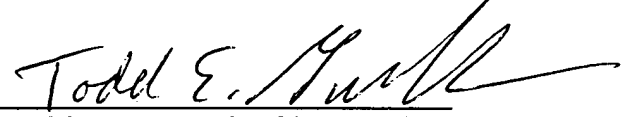
Applicants submit that the specification at page 13, line  
24, incorporates by reference U.S. Patent No. 5,780,172 that  
describes additional materials for the barrier layer recited in  
claims 9 and 20. Applicants submit that at column 4, lines 52-  
57 of that patent, manganese is explicitly recited as an element  
that can be used in the barrier layer. Accordingly, Applicants  
submit that the present claim amendments do not introduce new  
matter.

If a telephone conference would aid in the continued prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX I

CLAIM AMENDMENTS UNDER 37 CFR §1.121(c)(ii)

Claims 9 and 20 are herein amended as follows:

9. (Amended) The coated substrate of claim 8, wherein said barrier layer comprises an element selected from the group consisting of nickel, tin, iron, cobalt, copper, manganese, and combinations and alloys thereof.
  
20. (Amended) The coated substrate claim 19, wherein said barrier layer comprises an element selected from the group consisting of nickel, tin, iron, cobalt, copper, manganese, and combinations and alloys thereof.